

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03698 211657Z  
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 AGRE-00 AID-05  
EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /061 W  
-----066667 220153Z /14  
P 211550Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1159

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3698

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SPOP, NG  
SUBJECT: POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: (A) STATE 170370,(B) STATE 200396

1. REFTEL A ARRIVED DURING HEIGHT OF GON ANXIETY ABOUT  
NUMEROUS FOOD DEFICIT POCKETS, INSUFFICIENCY OF RESERVES,  
AND INADEQUACY OF DONOR RESPONSE TO GON NEED FOR EMERGENCY  
RELIEF. WHEN GON RELUCTANTLY REVERSED ITSELF TO ANNOUNCE  
A FOOD DEFICIT IN A MUTED PLEA FOR DONOR ASSISTANCE,  
DONOR RESPONSE WAS EQUALLY MUTED. AS PRICES ROSE AND THE  
CHIEF OF STATE ASSIGNED FOOD MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY TO  
CHIEF OF STAFF AND HE HIMSELF TOOK TO INSPECTING EMPTY  
OPVN WAREHOUSES AND GRAIN BINS, THEY DISCOVERED A PROBLEM  
MORE SEVERE AND MORE COMPLICATED THAN ANTICIPATED. IT WAS  
NOT A PROPITIOUS TIME TO DISCUSS REFTEL. THIS YEAR THE RAINS HAD  
COME A FULL THREE MONTHS EARLY. MOST FARMERS DIDN'T DARE  
PLANT THEN. THE LAST TIME RAINS CAME IN MARCH WAS 1943.  
BUT, A MONTH LATER IN APRIL 1978 THERE WAS RAIN AND THEN MOST  
FARMERS DIDN'T DARE WAIT. PATTERNS VARIED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY  
AND THERE WERE THOSE WHO HAD TO PLANT A SECOND OR THIRD  
TIME BECAUSE THEIR TIMING HAD BEEN WRONG.

2. NIGER PREOCCUPATION WITH THE DELICATE ECOLOGY OF FOOD  
PRODUCTION IN THE SAHEL IS BEST ILLUSTRATED BY THE OPENING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03698 211657Z

WORDS OF NIGER'S CHIEF OF STATE IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY  
MESSAGE TO THE NATION (AUGUST 3, 1978) QUOTE YOU KNOW...  
EACH YEAR.... THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR  
COUNTRY, IT IS A PRIVILEGED OCCASION FOR ME TO SPEAK TO YOU  
OF OUR FOOD SITUATION, AND TO REFLECT ON THE GENERAL TREND  
OF OUR NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

QUOTE: I SHALL NOT BREAK THIS TRADITION THIS YEAR  
INASMUCH AS NOW, AS BEFORE, OUR PREOCCUPATIONS REMAIN THE  
SAME, EVEN THOUGH THE INTRICACIES OF WORLD AFFAIRS HAVE A  
TENDENCY TO CONFRONT US EACH DAY WITH NEW PROBLEMS.

QUOTE... WE AGAIN CELEBRATE THIS ANNIVERSARY IN  
SIMPLE FASHION, LEAVING OUR INTREPID FARMERS ALL THEIR TIME  
TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THEIR HARD WORK IN THE FIELDS.

QUOTE FOR I KNOW ON THIS OCCASION THAT IN SPITE  
OF THE EARLINESS OF THE RAINS THIS YEAR, IN SPITE OF THE  
TREMENDOUS VIGILANCE OF OUR INTERVENTION SERVICES, THERE ARE  
MANY REGIONS WHERE IT WAS NECESSARY TO PLANT AND REPLANT,  
TO USE COURAGE AND INGENUITY TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INVADING  
WEEDS, AND AGAINST THE RAVAGING ATTACKS OF LOCUSTS AND RATS.

QUOTE THUS IT IS THAT I EXHORT ALL OUR FARMERS TO  
PERSEVERENCE. I SAY TO THEM THAT IN THE FACE OF THE  
UNCONTROLLABLE CAPRICES OF NATURE WE HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY,  
ONLY ONE WEAPON: OUR WORK SUSTAINED BY AN IMMENSE CAPITAL  
OF HOPE AS LONG AS THE CLOUDS CONTINUE TO CROSS OUR  
GREAT SKY. UNQUOTE FOOD PRODUCTION DOMINATES THE  
THOUGHT, LIFE AND POLITICS OF NIGER.

3. SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, I DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTTEL A  
WITH FONMIN. HE WAS VERY SURPRISED AND SOBERED BY ITS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NIAMEY 03698 211657Z

PROJECTIONS. HE SAID NIGER WAS NOT IN POSITION TO EXPORT  
FOOD. IN AN ATTEMPT TO BE HELPFUL HE SUGGESTED THAT WHEN  
THE PLANNED TRIPLE BENEFIT KANDAJI DAM (170 KM NORTHWEST  
OF NIAMEY) IS COMPLETED, NIGER WILL BE ABLE TO EXPORT  
FOOD. THE DAM WILL BE DESIGNED TO: PROVIDE HYDROELECTRIC  
POWER; CONTROL THE LEVEL OF NIGER RIVER FOR NAVIGATIONS AND  
PROVIDE IRRIGATION. IT WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY SEVEN  
YEARS TO BUILD.

4. HE MUSED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE  
LEAD IN IMPRESSING UPON THE WORLD THE ENORMITY AND URGENCY  
OF THE PROBLEM. SPECIFICALLY, HE SUGGESTED A WORLD CONFERENCE  
CALLED BY US TO FOCUS ATTENTION AND TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP.

5. COMMENT: NIGER'S LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST DROUGHT WHICH IT  
NERVOUSLY FEARS WILL REAPPEAR ANY YEAR WAS BURNED INTO  
ITS PSYCHE THE NEED FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD.  
PROBABLY 75 PER CENT OR MORE OF ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC-POLITICO  
DIPLOMATIC ENERGY IS DIRECTED TO THIS OBJECTIVE  
AND NIGER PERCEIVES A REAL PROBLEM IN THE INSENSITIVITY  
OF THE REST OF THE WORLD TO THE HARSH DIMENSIONS/STARK  
REALITIES OF SAHELIAN FOOD INSUFFICIENCY EVEN AFTER A

TECHNICAL END TO THE DROUGHT.

6. THE KANDAJI DAM UPON WHICH NIGER PLANS SO MUCH HOPE IS IN FINAL STAGES OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY. ITS CONSTRUCTION, WHEN STARTED, WILL TAKE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. HOWEVER, FOR

PRACTICAL POLITICAL REASONS NIGER WOULD LIKE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DAM TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PLANNING OF THE STAGNANT NIGER RIVER COMMISSION. BUT FIRST, THE COMMISSION ITSELF MUST BE UNBLOCKED TO PERMIT FLOW OF BUDGET, PLANNING AND PROGRAMS. NIGER MAY BE EXPECTED TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO REMOVE THE LOGJAM.(DISCUSSED SEPTTEL).

7. THE FONMIN DID NOT COMMENT ON PROBLEMS OF POPULATION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NIAMEY 03698 211657Z

GROWTH BUT HE OBVIOUSLY HEARD AND COMPREHENDED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECTIONS IN REFTTEL. NIGER IS KEENLY AWARE OF PROBLEM AND FOCUSING ITS ENERGIES ON INCREASE OF FOOD PRODUCTION. THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE ORIENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IT IS RECEIVING AS WELL AS ITS PLANNING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.JAMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POPULATION, PRODUCTION, FOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NIAAMEY03698  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780342-0231  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NIAAMEY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780842/aaaabiyo.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c1d35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 170370, 78 STATE 200396  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1677659  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION  
**TAGS:** SPOP, NG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c1d35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014